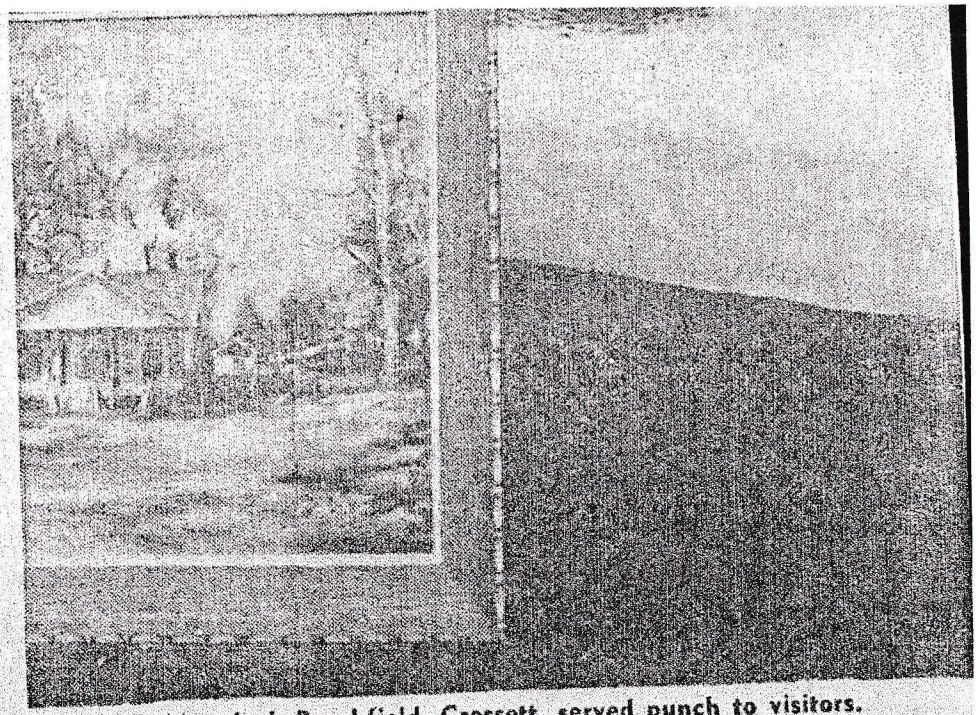
Betty Ann Nutt and Glenda Morman were among girls acting as guides.



Mrs. Jack Burchfield, Crossett, served punch to visitors.

ure of an old-timer standing outside the door of idson Church." Both of these buildings have been placed by modern structures. A few of the older es in the long line of spectators could even remember the old red brick "Courthouse of 1902."

The "best of the show" painting, picked by pular vote, depicts a yellow sweet-gum tree growg beside the branch that ran through her father's m four miles north of Hamburg. It was there it young, wide-eyed Maude Gardner first discovd that sunlight and shadow falls as magnificently a shanty as it does on a palace.

Yet Mrs. Harris, herself so typical of Southern aditions, never planned to be a landscape artist. e knew only, after her mother bought her a small x of water colors when she was very young, that e must paint.

During the 35 years of her marriage, living in other state, she has surprised art critics and dges of that area by using techniques from primie to modern, and including the impressionistic. idges have commented on her clean-cut lines, well-alanced spaces, clear vibrant colors and ability to nder both delicate and bold forms.

And, though this artist is entirely self-taught, any others who have studied under great teachers in this country and abroad, have asked her to teach them her method of paint application, since it is distinctly individual and no one has been able to copy it. This she has never attempted to do, since her work is completely spontaneous.

Mrs. Harris first received notice in the field of portraiture; later she ventured into the field of still life.

Since 1930, her entries have consistently been among the winners in every show where she has exhibited her work. These have included the Southeast Texas State Fair; Annual Spring Art Show, Port Arthur; Annual Texas State Art Show, Beaumont; Sabine Artists Municipal Art Gallery, which takes in seven counties; and the Texas Fine Art Show, a state-wide affair which is held twice each year in Austin.

Her paintings have been included in numerous collections to make travel-circuits which went the round of the University of Arkansas, Hendrix College and the Museum of Fine Arts in Little Rock, along with colleges in several other states. A portrait titled "Ruth" was one of 60 selected from 500 entries to go to the Tri-State Show, including Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, and exhibited in Beaumont in 1942.

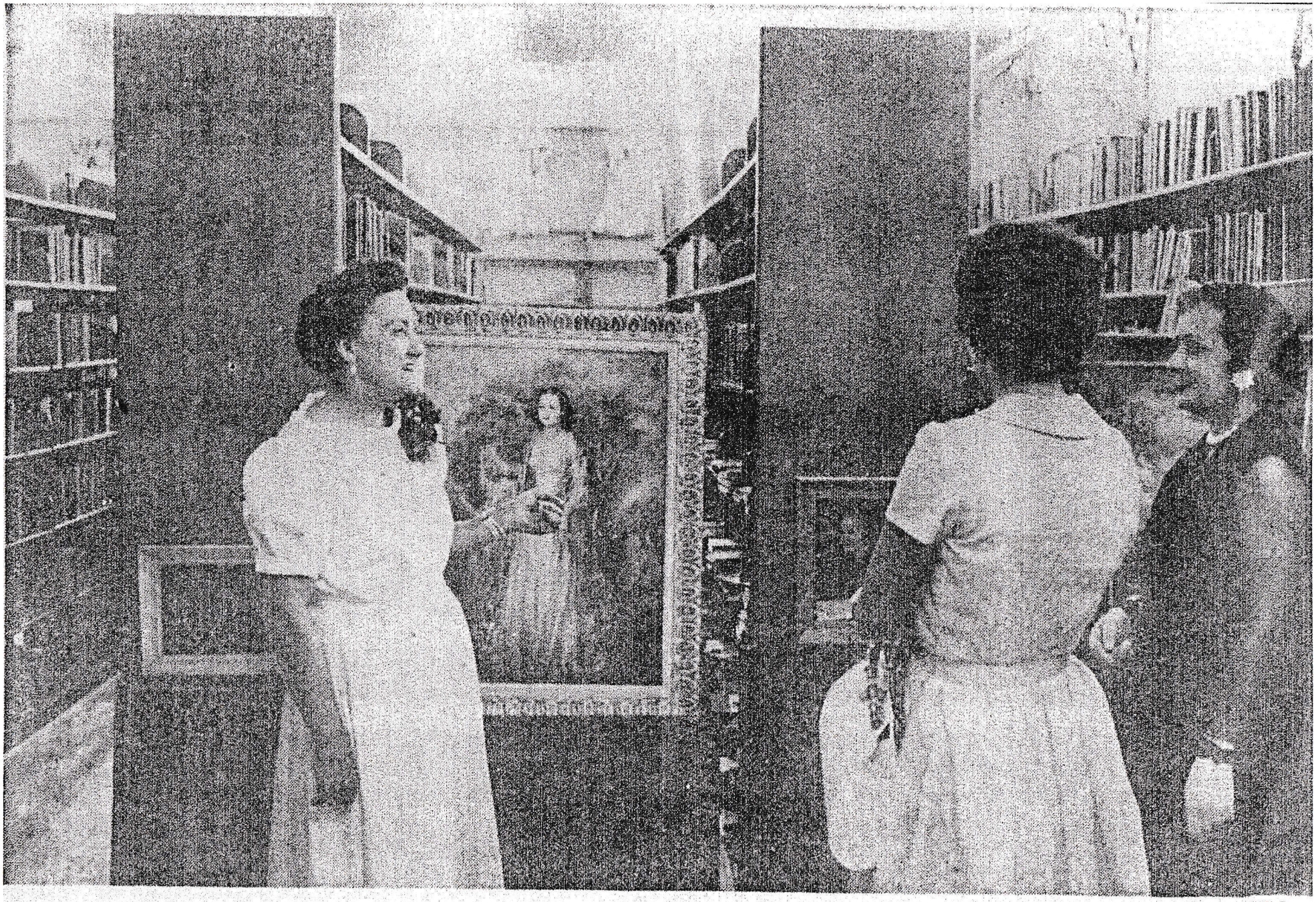
Three years ago, at a show viewed by more tha 1,500 persons, hers was the only painting sold al day. In 1958, Port Arthur producers of the Sprin Show invited her to exhibit her works in the lobb of their new building. Twenty-three of her canvase were hung for a one-week showing, and four of he oil studies were purchased and now hang in Okla homa City, Tulsa, Chicago and Boston.

Her first one-man show was displayed in th Gates Memorial Library in Port Arthur, in 1946.

At the present time she is listed for future one man shows at Beaumont Museum and the Po Arthur Art Gallery.

It was about two years ago that Mrs. Harris be gan expressing herself in the moods of nature an without having consciously willed it, drifted in the field of landscapes. Then, one day at her ease there came to her in a blinding flash the realizati that she was simply painting her Arkansas bac ground, unconsciously.

Rural South Arkansas has never before be portrayed so extensively, nor so poignantly, on ca vas. To Maude Gardner Harris it has been a wo of love. Whether or not she will ever take her wo to the art centers of New York City is still undecid —really, it is immaterial.

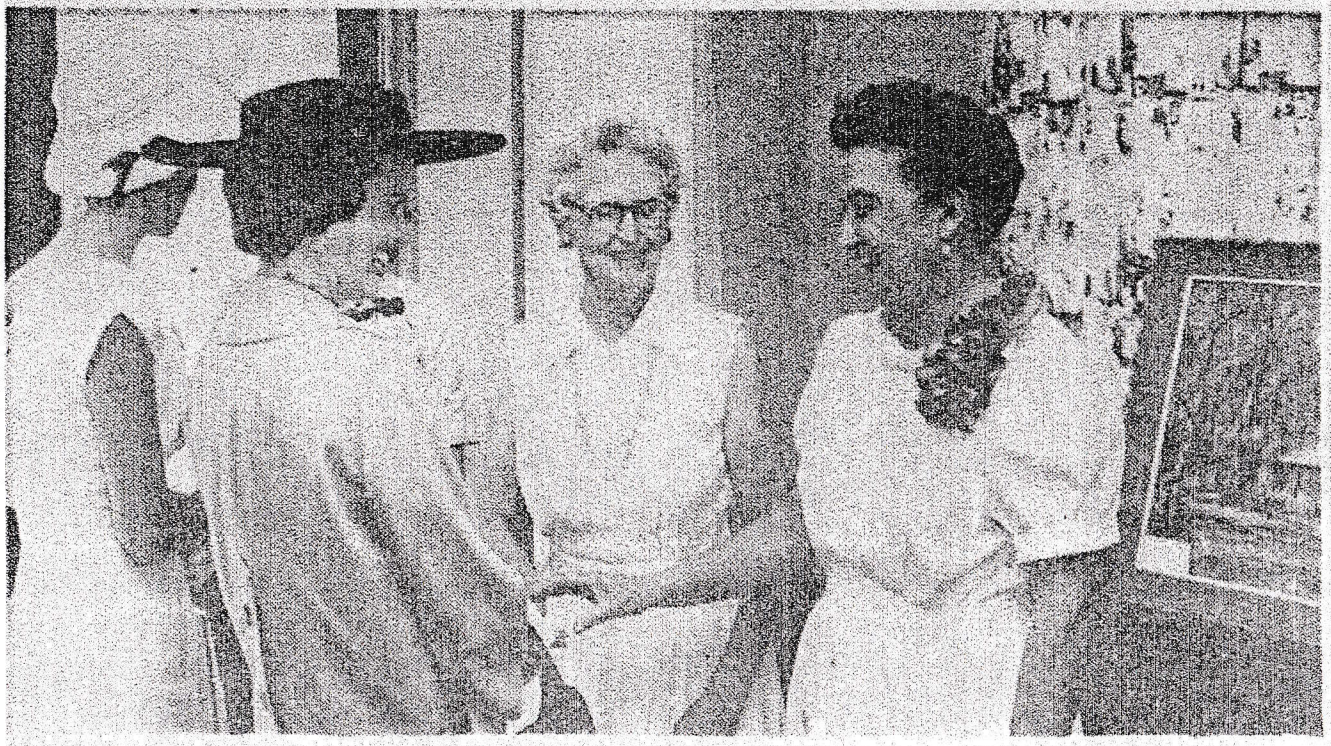


Will Count

Mrs. Maude Gardner Harris greeted old friends and other visitors during the showing of her works in the Ashley County Library in Hamburg.

Mrs. Ann E. Veazey, Ashley County librarian, accepted Mrs. Harris' gift to library: "Old Courthouse of 1902."

Hamburg Artist Came Home



Mrs. Jeff McCain, Fountain Hill (at Mrs. Harris' right), is the artist's sister; painting is of their old home.

By ETTA CALDWELL HARRIS

ART CRITICS AND JUDGES HAVE TOLD Maude Gardner Harris: "You should go to New York for the recognition your work deserves."

But, for a long time, this soft-spoken, motherly woman, who in private life is Mrs. Max Harris Sr. Port Arthur, Tex., has been more interested in bringing a selection of her best-loved paintings "back home" to Hamburg. Her reason: She hoped that other persons, viewing them, would remember the colorful beauty of the rural southern Arkansas of her childhood and youth, as she remembers it and has depicted it on canvas.

Last month she accomplished her desire. When residents of Hamburg and its neighboring towns in southern Arkansas visited her one-man show there they saw 55 oil paintings, hung in the Ashley County Library for one week, that were permeated by wistful nostalgia and the haunting charm of many well-known old landmarks. The paintings displayed the great feeling of the artist for the inner realities of her homeland. She drank in its picturesque beauty in her formative years and now it flows onto her canvas as effortlessly as if her brush, too, remembers.

Memory sparked memory, as scores of viewers discovered when they studied the play of sunlight through tall pine trees, falling in bright patches of glowing color-bits, mingled with shadows, on the "Old Gardner Schoolhouse" or recognized the lank